

Message Text

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44

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DHA-02 H-02 /043 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RACHRISTENSEN/LVA

APPROVED BY E:CROBINSON

S/S - MR. WOODS

----- 045855

R 030929Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (TOTH, LASZLO), YO

SUBJECT: TOTH CASE

1. DURING MARCH 22 DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO CIEC, UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON RAISED TOTH CASE, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THIS CASE HAS FOR USG AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE RESOLVED. HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH WE SUPPORT YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENCOURAGE US BUSINESS PARTICIPATION, WE BELIEVE FAILURE TO RESOLVE THIS CASE WILL HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON US BUSINESS ATTITUDES.

2. BELOVSKI STATED THAT HE IS VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN TRYING TO SOLVE THE CASE. HE IS NOT VERY HAPPY THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN SETTLED THUS FAR, BUT HE UNDERSTANDS OUR CONCERN AND IS DOING HIS BEST TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE. HE HOPES IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT RESOLUTION OF THIS CASE IS NOT A CONDITION FOR USG SUPPORT OF EXPANSION OF US-YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC RELATIONS. ROBINSON REPEATED THAT FAILURE TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE WOULD INFLUENCE US BUSINESS ATTITUDES TOWARD INVOLVEMENT IN

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YUGOSLAVIA.

3. BELOVSKI ASSERTED THAT THE IMPORTANT POINT IS TO GET
TOTH FREED. HE WOULD NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN DEBATE ON

THE MERITS OF THE CASE WHICH WOULD LEAD TO DISCUSSION
OF THE PHOTOS WHICH WERE TAKEN. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL
AUTHORITIES WHO WOULD NOT WANT TO BACK DOWN ON THE ISSUES
COMPLICATES THE RESOLUTION. BELOVSKI HAD HOPED TO HAVE
BOTH TOTH FREED BY NEW YEARS AND HE CONTINUES TO BE
ENGAGED IN THIS EFFORT. PERHAPS AN ACT OF CLEMENCY WILL
BE POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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